

Dear Editor,

We have now corrected the manuscript according to the Technical corrections suggested.

- Please remove acronyms where possible. I had trouble following your story because I could not memorize the large number of acronyms used in your manuscript. As a rule of thumb use acronyms only if all of the following applies: (1) the term is used more than 5 times and (2) the term consists of more than two words. Some examples where sentences become almost unreadable due to too many abbreviations:

507-508: According to our CCA, This FA is strongly correlated with elevated salinity (Fig. 10), pointing to a possible association with WW and UCDW.

515-516: By contrast with the apparent association of *A. rostratus* FA with WW and UCDW, the distribution of the *G. aff. rossensis* FA (Fig. 9) may coincide with the upper and warmer AASW...

>> DONE. We have removed acronyms for total carbon (TC) and all the water masses (WW, UCDW, AASW, LW).

- Figures: Please do not use red and green symbols together in one graph unless there is another characteristic to distinguish the datapoints.

>> All datapoints marked in dark orange changed into grey.

- Supplementary Figures and Tables are usually labeled Fig. S1, S2; Table S1, S2 etc.

>> No change here, as the additional files are Appendices not Supplements. They are numbered according to the www guidelines :

1. **“Appendices:** all material required to understand the essential aspects of the paper such as experimental methods, data, and interpretation should preferably be included in the main text. Additional figures, tables, as well as technical and theoretical developments which are not critical to support the conclusion of the paper, but which provide extra detail and/or support useful for experts in the field and whose inclusion in the main text would disrupt the flow of descriptions or demonstrations may be presented as appendices. These should be labelled with capital letters: Appendix A, Appendix B etc. Equations, figures and tables should be numbered as (A1), Fig. B5 or Table C6, respectively. Please keep in mind that appendices are part of the manuscript whereas supplements (see below) are published along with the manuscript.”

- I don't understand how the second page of Table B2 and B3 fit with their respective first page. Please clarify.

>> Corrected.

With the kindest regards,

Wojciech Majewski and co-authors